

Remarks.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claim 14 in independent form to include the subject matter of claims 12 and 13 from which claim 14 was dependent.

1/-3/. Claims 1, 3-13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German 3,616,230.

German reference No. 3,616,230 teaches an adapter for holding a blade 3. The adapter includes a body 2 defining a ridge 29 and a holder 1 for driving the body 1.

An important feature of modified claim 1 is the provision of a ridge 64 and an extension 70 which extends away from the ridge 64. The extension 70 cooperates with a chamber 98 defined by the distal end of the holder 20. A fastener 100 as shown in Fig. 5 locks the extension 70 within the chamber 98. Accordingly, when an operator wishes to fasten a body 24 to the holder 20, the only action required is the release of the fastener 100 to remove the body 24 followed by the insertion of a replacement body 24 and refastening the fastener 100. Therefore, no resetting of the machine tool is necessary. However, in the '230 reference, both of the elements 20 and 21 must be moved radially outwardly in order to release the body 2 followed by the removal and insertion of a replacement body 2 and a refastening of both of the elements 20 and 21. Thus the arrangement as claimed in

modified claim 1 simplifies the process of changing a body and therefore speeds up the machining process.

Antecedent basis for the amendment of claim 1 is found in Fig. 5 and the written description on page 13, lines 6-14.

Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that the '230 reference does not anticipate the combination claimed in modified claim 1 because it does not teach a chamber for the reception therein of the extension. Moreover, Applicant is of the opinion that the adapter of modified claim 1 is a nonobvious combination over the disclosure of the '230 reference and should therefore be allowable thereover.

Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are dependent on modified claim 1 and define further features that are not anticipated by or rendered obvious over the '230 reference.

Claim 12 has been amended commensurate with the amendment of claim 1. Therefore, applicant is of the opinion that modified claim 12 defines a novel and nonobvious improvement over the '230 reference. Claims 7, 13 and 15 have been canceled.

4/-5/. Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German '230 in view of Japanese 2000-158220.

The Japanese 2000-158220 reference teaches that the front side of the shank body is made of steel.

Claim 2 is dependent on modified claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that the combined teachings of the '230 reference and the Japanese 2000-158220 reference do not disclose a chamber for the reception therein of the extension. Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that claim 2 recites subject matter that is non obvious over the combined references and should therefore be allowable.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims as amended is requested.

By this amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to emphasize important features of the present invention. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 7, 13 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14 remain in this application.

Allowance of claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David J. Archer".

David J Archer

Applicants representative.

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